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Dear St. Paul's Community

Here we go again!

Who would have guessed?

In the past three years, together with the people of Chaguite Oriente, Honduras,, we have initiated a public health program that includes a water delivery system and a water tower with chlorinated water and constructed a school and at least the walls of a church building to be home for human development initiatives.. And this year we have been given the opportunity to expand our work to include Los Tablones – a community rich with water and home to “the cabins” a facility built to house meetings for a local forestry cooperative which has been “home base” for the previous mission trips and Lainez, site of a most remarkable wedding event in our first year in Honduras. And, given 6 alternatives, we have enthusiastically elected: to build a second water tower in Chaguite, to build a kitchen for the school in Los Tablones and to start work on construction of a kindergarten facility in Lainez.



While our participation and the resources we send enable these projects, they are not ours alone. The people of Chaguite have prioritized their needs, identified our projects and participated fully in helping us help them and we look forward to similar relationships with the people of Tablones and Lainez. The Deanery of El Paraiso and the diocese of Honduras provide the leadership of The Rev. Dagoberto Chacon Rodriguez, Maria del Carmen and Rene Crow who interpret these needs and use their resources to flesh out the projects and plan our visits. Their contacts in local municipalities, the



Peace Corps and the Diocese develop construction plans and get approvals, supplies, contractors and provide community education programs so that what we do short-term will be integrated into the lives of the villagers for generations to come.

“It is our community – and we will be the ones who benefit.” The Honduran author of the quote was referring to the volunteers who, by this October had completed the water tower and made significant progress on the Church building started in June/July. More appropriately, the community referenced is the one built over distance and across cultures between the people of Chaguite Oriente and the people of St. Paul's Brookline. And we all benefit. In Chaguite, one can see not only a larger school, a dam, water coming out of spigots, a water tower and a church structure, but also increased leadership, health guardians, initiative to build roads and a people open to relating with different language and culture.

Honduras is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere and by all standard measures, the people of these communities rank among the poorest, but they have become our teachers. Noting our

delight in their village, the people in Chaguite have, from the first, seen beyond our rational and empirical approach to life and have had faith. Faith cannot be measured or defined but it can span miles and cultures and it is contagious. And water comes out of a tap, and children go to school and there is a church and health and sanitation initiatives and during the weeks of 6/14-6/28, 2007, thirty faith full members of St. Paul's will be going to El Paraiso, Honduras – to build, to share and to learn.

Who would have believed?

We need to ask again for your assistance. Our goal this year is to raise \$55,000.to cover transportation, food, and housing as well as project materials and equipment and we hope you will consider helping us with your financial support. Checks can be written and sent to St. Paul's with "Honduras" on the memo line. We greatly appreciate any donations, but above all we value your prayers and well wishes.

In Christ, we thank you – Travel Team 2007



To see more photos of our missions, go to the St. Paul's web-site at <http://www.stpaulsbrookline.org/> and click on the Honduras link on the bottom of the first page.